

The federal poverty guidelines, more commonly referred to as the federal poverty level (FPL) are issued each year by the US Department of Health and Human Services. Publication, via the *Federal Register* (HHS) is generally in the winter.

The guidelines are used for **administrative** purposes—such as, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. They are adjusted for families of different sizes, but are not for regional differences in the cost of living within the US mainland. The guidelines are updated annually using the the US Consumer Price Index.

In healthcare discussions, the guidelines are most commonly associated with determination of Medicaid eligibility, however the guidelines are used to determine eligibility for a variety of federal assistance programs, including:

- **Health & Human Services:** Community Services Block Grant, Head Start, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Children's Health Insurance Program
- **Department of Agriculture:** Food Stamps; Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs
- **Department of Energy:** Weatherization Assistance
- **Department of Labor:** Job Corps, Senior Community Service Employment Program, National Farmworker Jobs Program
- **Legal Services Corporation:** Legal services for the poor.

Source

(1) DHS, "The 2009 HHS Poverty Guidelines" <http://www.ihsdinc.org/our%20program/2009%20Federal%20Poverty%20Guidelines/2009%20Federal%20Poverty%20Guidelines.htm> [Accessed Sep. 16, 2009]

(2) Institute of Poverty Research, "What are poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines?" [www.irp.wisc.edu/faqs/faq1.htm](http://www.irp.wisc.edu/faqs/faq1.htm) [Accessed Sep. 16, 2009]

**2009 POVERTY LEVEL GUIDELINES**  
**ALL STATES (EXCEPT ALASKA AND HAWAII) AND DC**  
Income Guidelines as Published in the Federal Register on January 23, 2009

**ANNUAL GUIDELINES**

| <b>FAMILY SIZE</b> | <b>100% POVERTY*</b> | <b>120%</b> | <b>133%</b> | <b>150%</b> | <b>170%</b> | <b>175%</b> | <b>185%</b> | <b>190%</b> | <b>200%</b> | <b>250%</b> | <b>300%</b> | <b>400%</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1                  | 10,830.00            | 12,996.00   | 14,403.90   | 16,245.00   | 18,411.00   | 18,952.50   | 20,035.50   | 20,577.00   | 21,660.00   | 27,075.00   | 32,490.00   | 43,320.00   |
| 2                  | 14,570.00            | 17,484.00   | 19,378.10   | 21,855.00   | 24,769.00   | 25,497.50   | 26,954.50   | 27,683.00   | 29,140.00   | 36,425.00   | 43,710.00   | 58,280.00   |
| 3                  | 18,310.00            | 21,972.00   | 24,352.30   | 27,465.00   | 31,127.00   | 32,042.50   | 33,873.50   | 34,789.00   | 36,620.00   | 45,775.00   | 54,930.00   | 73,240.00   |
| 4                  | 22,050.00            | 26,460.00   | 29,326.50   | 33,075.00   | 37,485.00   | 38,587.50   | 40,792.50   | 41,895.00   | 44,100.00   | 55,125.00   | 66,150.00   | 88,200.00   |
| 5                  | 25,790.00            | 30,948.00   | 34,300.70   | 38,685.00   | 43,843.00   | 45,132.50   | 47,711.50   | 49,001.00   | 51,580.00   | 64,475.00   | 77,370.00   | 103,160.00  |
| 6                  | 29,530.00            | 35,436.00   | 39,274.90   | 44,295.00   | 50,201.00   | 51,677.50   | 54,630.50   | 56,107.00   | 59,060.00   | 73,825.00   | 88,590.00   | 118,120.00  |
| 7                  | 33,270.00            | 39,924.00   | 44,249.10   | 49,905.00   | 56,559.00   | 58,222.50   | 61,549.50   | 63,213.00   | 66,540.00   | 83,175.00   | 99,810.00   | 133,080.00  |
| 8                  | 37,010.00            | 44,412.00   | 49,223.30   | 55,515.00   | 62,917.00   | 64,767.50   | 68,468.50   | 70,319.00   | 74,020.00   | 92,525.00   | 111,030.00  | 148,040.00  |

\*For family units of more than 8 members, add \$3,740

**MONTHLY GUIDELINES**

| <b>FAMILY SIZE</b> | <b>100% POVERTY</b> | <b>120%</b> | <b>133%</b> | <b>150%</b> | <b>170%</b> | <b>175%</b> | <b>185%</b> | <b>190%</b> | <b>200%</b> | <b>250%</b> | <b>300%</b> | <b>400%</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1                  | 902.50              | 1,083.00    | 1,200.33    | 1,353.75    | 1,534.25    | 1,579.38    | 1,669.63    | 1,714.75    | 1,805.00    | 2,256.25    | 2,707.50    | 3,610.00    |
| 2                  | 1,214.17            | 1,457.00    | 1,614.84    | 1,821.25    | 2,064.08    | 2,124.79    | 2,246.21    | 2,306.92    | 2,428.33    | 3,035.42    | 3,642.50    | 4,856.67    |
| 3                  | 1,525.83            | 1,831.00    | 2,029.36    | 2,288.75    | 2,593.92    | 2,670.21    | 2,822.79    | 2,899.08    | 3,051.67    | 3,814.58    | 4,577.50    | 6,103.33    |
| 4                  | 1,837.50            | 2,205.00    | 2,443.88    | 2,756.25    | 3,123.75    | 3,215.63    | 3,399.38    | 3,491.25    | 3,675.00    | 4,593.75    | 5,512.50    | 7,350.00    |
| 5                  | 2,149.17            | 2,579.00    | 2,858.39    | 3,223.75    | 3,653.58    | 3,761.04    | 3,975.96    | 4,083.42    | 4,298.33    | 5,372.92    | 6,447.50    | 8,596.67    |
| 6                  | 2,460.83            | 2,953.00    | 3,272.91    | 3,691.25    | 4,183.42    | 4,306.46    | 4,552.54    | 4,675.58    | 4,921.67    | 6,152.08    | 7,382.50    | 9,843.33    |
| 7                  | 2,772.50            | 3,327.00    | 3,687.43    | 4,158.75    | 4,713.25    | 4,851.88    | 5,129.13    | 5,267.75    | 5,545.00    | 6,931.25    | 8,317.50    | 11,090.00   |
| 8                  | 3,084.17            | 3,701.00    | 4,101.94    | 4,626.25    | 5,243.08    | 5,397.29    | 5,705.71    | 5,859.92    | 6,168.33    | 7,710.42    | 9,252.50    | 12,336.67   |